provided with the facility and villages which are yet to be provided the same, year-wise and village-wise;

(b) by when the rest of the villages would be provided telephone facility; and

(c) what action Government would take against the persons found guilty for negligence and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

TRAI's recommendations about imposition of USO Levy

3815. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the TRAI has come out with its final recommendations about imposition of USO levy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these recommendations have been implemented by Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not. the reasons therefor and the tentative time schedule for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have recommended appointment of universal service levy 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). This levy is a part of the total license fee to be paid by the various service providers such as Basic, Cellular, National and International Long Distance, Paging, Infrastructure Provider Catcgory-II (IP-II), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT). The funds created by the Universal Service Levy

shall be spent in rural and remote areas on both public access telephones or community telephones meant for public use and individual household telephones in net high-cost rural/remote areas. The implementation of USO will be divided into two clearly identifiable streams.

Stream I: Provision of Public Telecom and Information Services.This includes:

a. Installation of VPTs in the remaining villages (over and above the villages identified as per the 1991 census).

b. Provision of additional rural community phones after achieving the target of one VPT in every villages.

c. Replacement of VPTs installed before 01.04.2002.

d. Upgradation of VPTs to Public Telecom and Info Centres (PTICs).

e. Installation of High Speed PTICs (HPTICs).

Stream II: Provision of household telephones in Net High Cost areas (rural/remote). Stream I will be given priority in respect of disbursement of funds over Stream II.

(c) The Universal Service Support Policy, on the recommendations of TRAI, as accepted by the Government, has taken effect from 01.04.2002. Guidelines in this regard have also been issued.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Karnataka's treasury computerisation project

3816. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has initiated treasury computerisation project covering sub-treasuries by connecting them to the Central Communications System through VSATS, if so, the details therof;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Central